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NEWS AND COMMENT

The *Proceedings and Addresses* of the National Association of State Libraries at its nineteenth convention in June, 1916 (100 p.) contains the usual report of the association's committee on public archives summarizing the progress of archival work in the different states during the year. From this it appears that the Arkansas Historical Commission has received from the various state departments "thousands of volumes of original records," under the provisions of the act establishing the commission, which authorizes the turning over to it of any public records "not in current use." In Connecticut many state and local records have been taken over by the archives division of the state library, and "under the direction of the examiner of public records, the land records of the several towns are being systematically indexed, standard ink and paper are being prescribed for public records, and new vaults and safes constructed." The State Historical Society of Kansas devotes a part of its new building to archival work and a mass of material turned over by the insurance department is now being sorted. The recently appointed archivist of Kentucky is "engaged in sorting and classifying a large file of mixed papers which for some years had been lying in one of the cellars of the old capitol." In Massachusetts the archives division is compiling a card index to valuable state archives. Oklahoma now has a law authorizing the transfer of non-current records to the historical society. The division of public records of Pennsylvania has arranged many volumes of county papers as well as state and provincial records. Rhode Island has a state record commissioner who supervises the making of public records throughout the state. The Virginia legislature has appropriated four thousand dollars for shelving and filing cases for the records being arranged and indexed by the department of archives and history of the state library. Non-current records are turned over to the state library in Washington, but the library has no facilities or funds for arranging them. West Virginia has a bureau of archives and history which is

required by law to devise and adopt "a systematic plan for the preservation and classification of all the state archives of the past, present, and future." Even the Philippine Islands have a division of archives in the Philippine Library and Museum, which has arranged and indexed many old documents, and the activities of the "historian of Porto Rico" have resulted in the classification of some of the valuable archives of that territory. The report of the committee is followed by a paper by Waldo G. Leland on "The Archive Depot." All this material is to be found also in the *Papers and Proceedings* of the American Library Association for 1916.

The *Sixth Biennial Report* of the North Carolina Historical Commission for 1914-16 (1916. 26 p.) is a notable record of progress in state historical work. The secretary of the commission, Mr. R. D. W. Connor, reports the completion of the classification and filing of the executive papers from the state archives, about forty thousand documents, and the beginning of similar work on the legislative papers. Ten collections of personal papers also were arranged during the biennium, thousands of documents were reinforced, restored, and mounted for binding, sixty-two volumes of mounted papers were bound, and a considerable number of manuscript collections were calendared or indexed. Besides acquiring many valuable collections of private papers the commission received parts of the older records of nine counties of the state. Through the North Carolina division of the United Confederate Veterans a gift of twenty-five thousand dollars, to be devoted to the preparation of a history of the state's part in the Civil War, was received from a private individual; while another friend of history established a research fund amounting to five hundred dollars annually, which is used to defray the expenses of trips to various parts of the state for the collection of historical material.

The Canadian government has issued the *Report of the Work of the Public Archives* for the years 1914 and 1915 (1916. 20, 25, 255, 471 p.). The last pagination consists of a very valuable "Catalogue of Pamphlets, Journals and Reports in the Public Archives of Canada, 1611-1867, with Index."

The province of Manitoba has established a board of trustees of the archives and provision has been made in the new Parliament buildings at Winnipeg for their preservation and arrangement under the direction of the provincial librarian.

In a table recently compiled by the Minnesota Tax Commission the annual expenditures for historical work in six north-western states are given as follows: Minnesota, \$23,868.70; Wisconsin, \$66,505.61; Michigan, \$6,526.37; Indiana, \$1,622.85; Ohio, \$31,547.08; Iowa, \$35,487.65. The figures are for the fiscal year ending in 1916 for Ohio and in 1915 for all the other states. The table is printed in a pamphlet entitled *Comparative Cost of State Government* (1916. 78 p.), issued by the commission as a separate of chapter 10 of its *Fifth Biennial Report*.

The *Twentieth Biennial Report* of the board of directors of the Kansas State Historical Society (Topeka, 1916. 93 p.) contains the proceedings of the annual meetings of 1915 and 1916. Bound with it is a *History of Kansas Newspapers* (Topeka, 1916. 320 p.), which contains biographical sketches of a large number of Kansas newspaper men, statistical notes on the counties, cities, and towns of the state, detailed information about all Kansas newspapers and magazines, and lists of the society's files.

"The Freedom of History," by George L. Burr, the presidential address at the meeting of the American Historical Association in December, is published in the January number of the *American Historical Review*. A timely article in the same issue is "Social Relief in the Northwest during the Civil War," by Carl R. Fish. This study is based largely on the mass of Civil War papers from the Wisconsin governor's office recently turned over to the Wisconsin Historical Society, and naturally centers around the movement in that state, although developments in some of the other northwestern states are considered for purposes of comparison.

The December number of the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* contains the annual article on "Historical Activities in the Trans-Mississippi Northwest," by Dan E. Clark, in which mention is made of various phases of the work of the Minnesota Historical Society. Under the heading "Additional Verendrye

Material" Messrs. Doane Robinson and Charles E. DeLand take exception to some of the arguments presented by Mr. O. G. Libby in his paper on "Some Verendrye Enigmas" in the September issue and Mr. Libby defends his position.

An article "Concerning Catholic Historical Societies," by Waldo G. Leland, secretary of the American Historical Association, in the January number of the *Catholic Historical Review* is packed with valuable suggestions, most of which are pertinent to any historical society.

Nicolet Day on Mackinac Island, number 6 of the *Bulletins* of the Michigan Historical Commission (1916. 32 p.), consists of an account of the "exercises at the unveiling of the tablet commemorating the discovery and exploration of the Northwest; held on Mackinac Island, July 13, 1915, under the auspices of the Michigan Historical Commission and the Mackinac Island State Park Commission." The principal address on the "Life and Character of John Nicolet" is by Rev. Thomas J. Campbell, S. J. Number 7 of the same series, entitled *Lewis Cass Day on Mackinac Island* (1916. 43 p.), is an account of the unveiling of a memorial tablet on August 28, 1915, and contains an address on the life of Cass by Edwin Henderson.

The issues of the *Bellman* for January 13, 20, and 27 contain a series of articles by Randolph Edgar entitled "The Path of Hennepin," consisting largely of extracts from the works of Hennepin, Carver, and Laurence Oliphant, describing the upper Mississippi region in 1680, 1766, and 1854, respectively. The articles are illustrated by reproductions of cuts in the original works.

The November issue of the *Western Magazine* contains an article entitled "Glimpses into Early Northwestern History—Early French Forts and Footprints on the Mississippi," and an account of "Wabasha, Minnesota," by C. L. Llewellyn, which is partly historical.

"About Buffalo: Their Range, Extermination, and Possible Domestication" is the title of "A Report Submitted to Sir George E. Foster, Chairman of the Dominions' Royal Commission, by

Isaac Cowie, Winnipeg," and published in the *Manitoba Free Press* of Winnipeg, November 11, 1916.

The region immediately adjacent to Trempealeau Mountain in Wisconsin has been set aside recently as a state park through the efforts of Dr. Eben D. Pierce of Trempealeau, assisted by the Wisconsin Historical Society, and through the generosity of Mr. John A. Latsch of Winona, Minnesota. Historic interest attaches to Trempealeau Mountain by reason of the fact that Nicolas Perrot passed the winter of 1685-86 encamped at its base, and that later, in 1731, René Godefroy, Sieur de Linctot, sent out to establish a post among the Sioux, built a fort near the same spot.

A faellesraad, or common council, of Norwegian societies known as bygdelags was organized at a meeting in Minneapolis, November 17, 1916. The council is composed of two delegates from each of the thirty-five bygdelags in the country, which have a total membership of about forty thousand heads of families. The word bygdelag is applied in Norway to a district inhabited by those speaking the same dialect; from this fact these societies in the United States derive their name. To each society or bygdelag belong Norwegians from all parts of the country who are descendants of residents of that particular district or bygdelag in Norway. The object of these societies is to cultivate common acquaintance among those from the same district, and to gather and record historical and biographical material relative to the members. The purpose of the central council is to form a connecting link between different societies and to have charge of matters of common interest. A. A. Veblen of Minneapolis was elected president of this body; D. G. Ristad of Red Wing, vice-president; Rev. L. P. Thorkveen of St. James, secretary; Dr. C. L. Opsal of Red Wing, treasurer; and C. D. Morck of Minneapolis, keeper of the archives. A movement is on foot to have the material collected by the bygdelags deposited in the new building of the Minnesota Historical Society.

The Old Settlers' Association of the Head of the Lakes and the Old Settlers' Benefit Association held their annual banquet at Duluth on December 13, 1916. The membership in the former

organization is limited to those who have resided at the head of the lakes for twenty-five years or more. The principal address was given by Judge William Steele, and there were short talks by Harvey W. Dietrich, W. B. Patton, and others. The December 13 issue of the *Duluth Herald* contained a list of the officers elected at the business session.

Pursuant to a suggestion from the Read's Landing Association of the Twin Cities, the post-office department has changed the name of Reed's, Minnesota, to Read's. The change is in the interests of historical accuracy, as the village took its name from its founder, Charles R. Read.

The faculty and students of the law school of the University of Minnesota have begun the publication of a monthly magazine entitled the *Minnesota Law Review*, the first number of which appeared in January, 1917. Some of the articles in the first three issues are "Rights in Soil and Minerals under Water," by Oscar Hallam; "The Minnesota State Bar Association," by Stiles W. Burr; and "Charitable Gifts and the Minnesota Statute of Uses and Trusts," by Edward S. Thurston.

The recent discovery among the archives of the Minneapolis Civic and Commerce Association of old records of the St. Anthony Board of Trade, including minutes of meetings of a committee charged apparently with the task of selecting a name for the town of Minneapolis, resulted in the reopening of the famous controversy over the origin of the word. At the request of the editor of the *Minneapolis Journal*, Judge J. B. Gilfillan, a resident of Minneapolis since 1855, gathered together all the available data relating to the subject in the form of a comprehensive and authoritative report, which was published in that paper in its issue of January 7, and which later appeared in pamphlet form under the title *Who Named Minneapolis* (7 p.). The *Journal* of December 3 contains a facsimile of the minutes of one of the meetings, together with comments on the men composing the committee by Dr. L. P. Foster, who attended the meeting.

An Historical Sketch of the Grand Army of the Republic in Minnesota from Its Organization August 1, 1866, to August 1,

1916 (16 p.) has been "published by the Department of Minnesota G. A. R., through Levi Longfellow, Department Patriotic Instructor." The pamphlet, which was compiled by Past Department Commander Watson W. Hall, gives the place and date of each annual encampment, the number of posts represented, the total number of members reported by the posts, and the name of the department commander elected. The highest number of members given was 8,343 in 1892, since when the ranks have been depleted by death until only 2,907 were reported at the fiftieth annual encampment, June 8 and 9, 1916.

Woman Suffrage in Minnesota is the title of a pamphlet compiled by Dr. Ethel E. Hurd and published for the Minnesota Woman Suffrage Association by the Inland Press of Minneapolis (1916. 52 p.). Its purpose is "to furnish a ready reference for suffrage workers of Minnesota," and to this end the compiler has gathered much valuable statistical data on the various activities of the association since 1847. Of especial interest are the sections devoted to "Early Efforts and Pioneers," and "Legislative Work," the latter being a résumé of the attempts from 1867 to 1915 to secure the passage by the state legislature of measures favoring enfranchisement of women.

The *Annual Report* of the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs for the year 1916-17 (146 p.) contains a description of the prize gavel belonging to the federation. Peculiar value attaches to the gavel because of the fact that the woods used in its construction were taken from historic objects or buildings, two of the pieces being from the old Methodist mission house at Red Rock and the Sibley house at Mendota.

Howe's Souvenir History of Lamberton, Minnesota (1916. 98 p.) is the title of the third pamphlet on the towns of Redwood County issued by Mr. Charles W. Howe of Redwood Falls. It consists of a brief historical sketch, with accounts of the schools, churches, and business firms of Lamberton, and some reminiscences of pioneers, followed by sixty-four pages of biographical sketches of leading business men and farmers of Lamberton and vicinity.

A new series of sketches by Dr. Caryl B. Storrs, entitled "Visitin' 'Round in Minneapolis," has been appearing in recent issues of the *Minneapolis Tribune*. Two of the sketches are especially noteworthy contributions to Minneapolis bibliography. In the issue of December 19 Dr. Storrs describes the changes that have taken place in the business center of the city in the last fifty years, particularly in that section which he so aptly denominates the "Greenwich Village" of Minneapolis, closing with a brief history of the firm of Janney, Semple, Hill, and Company, a portrait of whose founder, Mr. T. B. Janney, accompanies the article. The other sketch, in the *Tribune* of January 14, may be called a musical history of Minneapolis, the material for which the author obtained partly from an old scrapbook of programs and newspaper notices belonging to Mr. A. M. Shuey, and partly from the owner of the book himself, who has been connected with the musical life of the city since 1866. A portrait of Mr. Shuey appears with the sketch.

The commission authorized by the legislature of 1915 to consider the advisability of establishing a state park at the Toqua Lakes in Big Stone County submitted its report favoring the proposition to the 1917 legislature on January 15. A statement in this report to the effect that the site is historic by reason of its being the scene of the last fight between the Chippewa and the Sioux in May, 1869, called forth some interesting accounts of the battle which took place at Shakopee in 1858, which the narrators, for the most part eye witnesses of the event, believe was the last hostile encounter between these two tribes. The most notable of these accounts are the following: "Toqua Lake Fight is Called a Myth," by Richard Pfefferle, in the *New Ulm Review* of January 17; "Remembers Last of the Chippewa-Sioux Battles," by Frederick Fritsche, in the *Review* of January 24; and letters by W. H. Smith of Washington and E. J. Pond, son of the well-known missionary, Rev. S. W. Pond, which appeared under the title "Authentic Data on Indian Battle" in the February 9 and 16 issues of the *Scott County Argus* of Shakopee.

A series of articles containing material of some value on the Pillager band of Chippewa Indians at Leech Lake, their uprising in 1862, coincident with the Sioux outbreak, and the later dis-

turbances of 1875, appeared in the *White Earth Tomahawk* for January 4 and 11, in the form of a sketch of Major James Whitehead by Rev. C. H. Beaulieu. Major Whitehead was the junior member of the firm of Sutherland, Rutherford, and Company, which engaged in the fur trade at Leech Lake from 1859 to 1863. He played an important part at various times in assisting the state authorities to bring to punishment members of the Pillager band responsible for acts committed against the whites; and, because of his knowledge of, and influence with, these Indians, he was appointed United States Indian agent at the Leech Lake Agency in 1875.

An account of the first Swedish settlement in Minnesota is published under the title "Settlingen i Minnesota—Chisago Lake eller 'Swede Lake'" in part 3 of the *Chisago County Press* (Lindstrom) for December 21. The article is taken from the journal of the late Dr. Eric Norelius, one of the foremost of the early settlers of the region and the author of a reliable work on the history of his countrymen in America. It contains sketches of many Scandinavian immigrants, some autobiographical material, and an account of the geography, flora, and fauna of the region. Pictures of P. A. Cederstam, the first pastor, of the house of Peter Berg, where church services were first held, and of the old church at Chisago Lake accompany the article.

The January 27 issue of the *Minneapolis Tribune* contained an interesting sketch, by Elizabeth McLeod Jones, of the old village of Traverse des Sioux as seen to-day by the curious visitor and as it appeared in the days of its importance when it was one of the most prosperous trading posts in Minnesota Territory. Mention is made of fur-traders, missionaries, and other well-known pioneers who lived at the post for a time, and some account is given of the treaty negotiated in July, 1851, with the Sioux. The article is accompanied by pictures of several old buildings dating back to the early fifties.

An article in the January 7 issue of the *Minneapolis Journal*, by Mr. John L. Johnson of Minneapolis, contains material on economic conditions and land values in the early days. The Johnson family emigrated from Sweden in 1852, and in 1854 came to St. Paul. Fifteen years later they settled on a tract of

land in Sibley County on the Minnesota River opposite Belle Plaine, a site known as Johnson's Landing in old steamboat days. The son later removed to Minneapolis, where, as a building contractor, he had charge of the erection of the first grain elevator in Minnesota.

In an article contributed to the *Minneapolis Journal* of January 24, Mr. Warren Upham of the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society gives an exhaustive account of the first discovery and early explorations of Lake Minnetonka, together with an explanation of the meaning of its name, which was coined by Governor Ramsey. At the conclusion of the article Mr. Upham gives his version of the naming of the city of Minneapolis and an account of the "origin and first use of the name Minnehaha."

Mr. Luther H. Nichols of North Yakima, Washington, whose parents were among the first white settlers of Brown County, in a letter to the *New Ulm Review* of January 24 relates his recollections of events connected with the early history and organization of that county. The experiences of the Nichols family and their neighbors along the Little Cottonwood River during the Sioux outbreak of 1862 are described at some length.

The St. Paul Outdoor Sports Carnival, which took place during the week beginning January 27, furnished the occasion for a descriptive article on the St. Paul ice palace carnivals of 1886, 1887, and 1888, which appeared in the *St. Paul Sunday Pioneer Press* for December 17. The material for the article, as well as the accompanying illustrations, was drawn largely from a pamphlet issued as a carnival supplement by the *Dispatch* in 1889. The December 24 issue of the *Sunday Pioneer Press* contained a picture and an account of the Windsor Carnival Club of 1886.

Tales of the social pleasures, festivities, and recreations, and of the hospitality enjoyed by the early-day residents of Minneapolis during the Christmas holiday season are related by Mr. Caleb Dorr, Dr. L. P. Foster, and Mr. Frank O'Brien in the *Minneapolis Journal* of December 24. Reminiscences of a similar nature by Major Edwin Clark of Minneapolis appear in the *Minneapolis Tribune* of the same date.